A targeted Bluegill assessment was conducted on the Briggs Chain of Lakes from June 17 – June 24, 2015. This assessment was conducted in order to get an idea of the size structure of the spawning Bluegills. Many times these larger individuals are not sampled during the traditional summer surveys especially during surveys conducted in July and August. We describe the size structure using terms such as Proportional Stock Density (PSD) and Relative Stock Density (RSD). For Bluegill PSD is the percentage of Bluegill larger than 3" that are also larger than 6". For example, Figure 1 shows the length frequency of Bluegill from Briggs Lake and the PSD is 91. So, 91% of the Bluegill sampled larger than 3" were also larger than 6". Similarly, RSD₈ is the percentage of Bluegill larger than 3" that are also larger than 8".

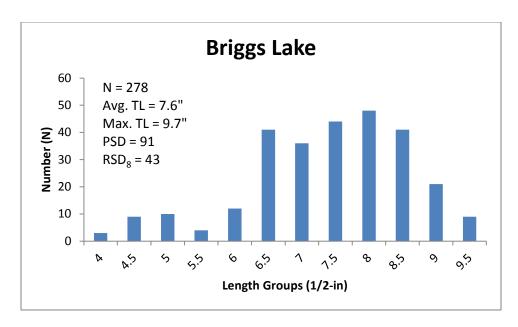


Figure 1. Length Frequency of Bluegill collected from Briggs Lake during targeted sampling conducted from June 17 – 24, 2015.

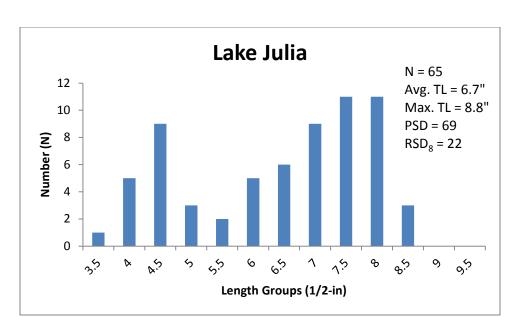


Figure 2. Length Frequency of Bluegill collected from Julia Lake during targeted sampling conducted from June 17 – 24, 2015.

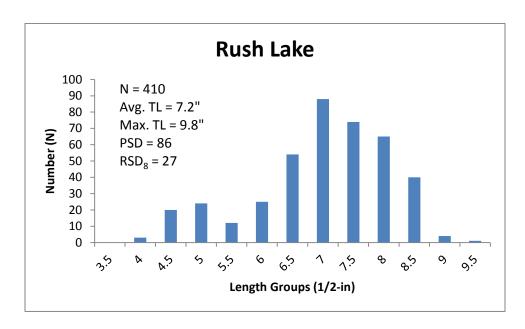


Figure 3. Length Frequency of Bluegill collected from Rush Lake during targeted sampling conducted from June 17 – 24, 2015.

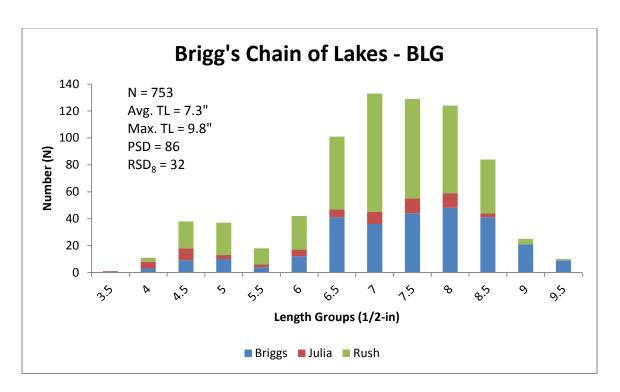


Figure 4. Length Frequency of Bluegill collected from the Briggs Chain of Lakes (combined) during targeted sampling conducted from June 17 - 24, 2015.

The Largemouth Bass population was assessed on May 4-5, 2015. Largemouth Bass are not traditionally collected during our summer gill net and trap net surveys so we use spring electrofishing to assess the bass population. We also use PSD and RSD to describe these populations as well we just use different sizes so for bass. PSD for Largemouth Bass is the percentage of bass collected that are larger than 8" that are also larger than 12". We did sample a total of 15 Smallmouth Bass from Briggs and Rush Lakes and they ranged from 6"-19". The bass numbers in the Briggs Chain are average for the area. The catch rate this spring was 31.5/hr which is similar to the median daytime catch rate for Largemouth Bass (35.9/hr). The average size was good and we are also seeing smaller fish recruit into the population.

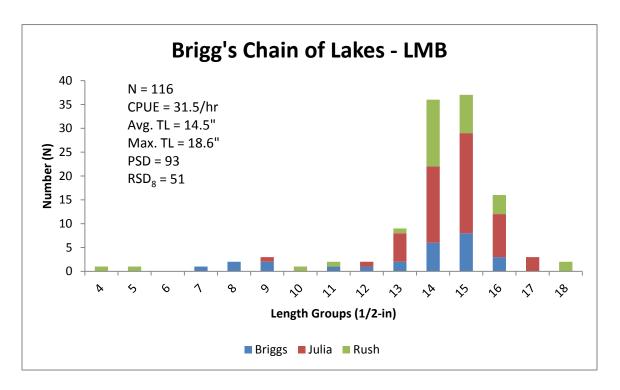


Figure 5. Length frequency distribution of Largemouth Bass collected from the Briggs Chain of Lakes (combined) during spring day-time electrofishing on May 4 – 5, 2015.